

Grow Somewhere

Together

Craig Smith • January 28, 2018

Spiritual growth has always been a team sport...

From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Eph. 4:16)

God uses community to grow us by way of...

- **Encouragement to protect us** – “See to it brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” (Heb. 3:12-13)

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up... (1 Thes. 5:11)

- **Support to carry us** – “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Gal. 6:2)
- **Teaching to direct us** – “I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.” (Rom. 15:14)

- **Accountability to sharpen us** – “Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come... So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.” (Luke 17:1, 3)

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. (Prov. 27:17)

The relational “trinity” required for growth in community – humility, patience and grace...

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Eph. 4:2)

The point of Christian community with each other is a deeper community with God...

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)